

CEDET: Who we are

The **Potential and Talent Development Center (CEDET)** is a special education center created by Zenita Guenther in Lavras, MG, Brazil, in 1993. CEDET is run by the Lavras School System with technical and civil responsibility delegated to the Association of Parents and Friends for Supporting Talent (ASPAT). Its main goal is to cultivate the proper physical and social environment for complementing and supplementing educational support to the gifted and talented student. At present, there are 512 gifted students age 7 to 17 enrolled at CEDET, around 5% of Lavras Basic School population. The students come from thirteen Municipal Schools, eight State Schools and two private schools, plus a group of students from nearby communities brought in by their families.

X International Encounter of CEDET-ASPAT



“CEDET: Focusing on mental production rhythm – Acceleration and School Advancement”

Celebrating the CEDET/Poços de Caldas 5th anniversary, the ASPATs of Poços de Caldas and Lavras are organizing one more of its traditional Educators Encounter – the X International Encounter of CEDET-ASPAT

The event will happen on **September 18th and 19th, 2015, in Poços de Caldas, MG**. We will have important speakers such as **Katie McClarty** (University of Texas at Austin, United States), **Helena Serra** (Escola Superior de Educação de Paula Frassinetti, Portugal), **Edgardo Pérez** (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina) and **Luis Fernando Delboni** (PUC Minas, Brazil).

Throughout the meeting there will be presented posters and oral communications, plus panels with CEDET volunteers, and presentations by CEDET Poços de Caldas, Lavras (MG), Assis (SP) and São José do Rio Preto (SP).

Join in!

More information at

<http://encontrointernacionalcedet.blogspot.com.br>

Acceleration and Academic Talent

Now a days we can perceive all over the world a growing interest to advance the school work for intellectually gifted students with genuine interest in learning, studying, organizing and sharing knowledge they acquire by their own effort. These young scholars are proven to make good teachers in the future, in any school level they choose, from early childhood to the post-doctorate education. So we believe that to develop academic talent results in preparing good quality teachers for the society.



By definition, acceleration is an appropriate means to meet the pedagogical characteristics and educational needs for students endowed with high intellectual ability and academic talent (IGAT – Intellectually Gifted Academically Talented Students). Its main feature involves providing compatibility between the school series and the student's mental production, by getting rid of the artificial administrative link between chronological age and school progression. The main variable considered in accelerating is not the student's age, but his learning and mental production rhythms, specifically in the intellectual domain.

Examining the position of some authors that are more, or less, in favor of including acceleration in special programs for gifted and talented students, we found two complementary lines of thinking, both documented in studies and practice: the position that shows acceleration as the most effective educational intervention for students who have already learned the curriculum content, and are in the classroom just waiting ... and the other side emphasizing caution, advising that – *If there is any doubt, don't accelerate, wait until the situation is safe for the child.*

It must be acknowledged that there are other ways to plan and guide the child's ability development. However advancing the school series is undoubtedly the easiest and least expensive way to solve an immediate situation for the more able student, specifically when the options within the system are restricted, or insufficient. But to speed up school for a given child depends largely on the whole educational context, the way the process is conducted, and the guidance and support provided for teachers and counselors at school.

At CEDET we developed an acceleration procedure that is bringing on good results for several years; it basically involves: presence of high intellectual ability on the part of the child; consistency between the family and the school regarding acceleration; the child wants to be accelerated; agreement and trust between the two classroom teachers (current and future) regarding the procedure; and how the child's reacts during the transition from one class to another.

In any situation, the acceleration should only happen upon two certainties: 1st – the curricular content for the current series is effectively learned; 2nd - the child has the capacity to continue learning at a higher pace. Therefore we shall continue to gather data, to research and experiment with this theme, and for now, let's all have a good year's work at CEDET.

Dr.^a Zenita Guenther

International News

European Council for High Ability - ECHA

CEDET and ASPAT began 2015 with new developments. In addition to continuing work with gifted children for over 20 years, the **European Council for High Ability** (ECHA) recently invited ASPAT to apply to include CEDET within a network of talent centers and similar organizations in Europe. This is an important step for us, that testifies on the value of CEDET work, whose methodology has given good results since 1993, although not officially recognized in Brasil since 2003.

Agreement with Universidad Nacional de Córdoba

"We believe that the signing of the agreement will be very useful and meaningful to the two institutions. CEDET and ASPAT's experience will allow us to train students and graduates of our colleges through internships on this remarkable center of regional importance. In fact, in Argentina, gifted and talent children and adolescents have received little educational and institutional attention. At our side, the Faculty of Psychology has strengths in the areas of Psychometrics, Vocational Guidance, Methodology Research and Neuroscience. This will give place for joint research projects to facilitate, for example, a rigorous evaluation of interventions effectiveness in the giftedness area".



Prof. Dr. **Edgardo R. Pérez** and **María Milagros Martínez**
Psychology Evaluation and Educational Laboratory,
Faculty of Psychology, National University of Córdoba.

European Voluntary Service

ASPAT has considerable international recognition and for this reason it has been keeping an agreement with the European Union for youth exchange programs since 2005. It is currently the only South American organization to participate in the European Voluntary Service. In these 10 years more than fifty volunteers have participated in this exchange, being received or sent to eight countries, including Brazil. Recently ASPAT was called for a new project called "Intercontinental bridges" within the Erasmus Plus European Commission program. This project involves eight countries in three continents: Brazil, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece, Italy, China and Vietnam.

A Nations' Fair



On August 31st, 2014, CEDET participated in the project "If this street were mine...", conducted by Lavras Secretary of Education at the City Main Square, presenting some of our foreign connections. We had active participation of volunteers in our exchange program showing specific cultural aspects of their countries: Czech Republic (Talita Nassur), Slovakia (André Aguiar, Michal Skyčák and Nilmar Diogo) and United States (Max Guenther).

Early Education

CEDET in a joint program with Lavras Secretary of Education, is developing a differentiated work with the talented children in the municipal schools. About 60 teachers participated in a meeting held in April 2015, aimed at preparing classroom teachers educators to identify, among the age 5 to 6 groups, those children with signs of a higher intelligence, able to learn more and learn quicker than their average age pairs; those are the more reading skilled students, curious, able to focus attention, independent, autonomous... who probably could learn more in school.

The work started with six local schools: Dr. Dâmina School, José Serafim School, Sebastião Botrel School, Guilherme Henrique de Carvalho School, Paulo Menicucci School, Paulo Menicucci School and Itália Cautiero Franco (CAIC) School, in Lavras, MG.



Certificate of Philanthropy

For over ten years ASPAT had been struggling to achieve the desired Philanthropy Certificate that allows tax benefits to donors. This has been conceded in 2015 by the federal government, confirming ASPAT as a philanthropic institution, with all the incurred benefits. All private enterprises, companies and individuals who wish to make donations to the Association may do, and will get income tax deduction.

Book Release

On November 21st, 2014, the book **Entre Linhas e Versos** ("Between Lines and Verses") by Alanys Martins was launched at CEDET. It is her first book of poetry. Alanys, age 16, is a student at CEDET since 2011, and her book is the result of an individual project developed under guidance by facilitator Geovani Németh-Torres.

"For many years I had this dream to publish a book, and I was always writing poetry in my papers", says the author. "Poetry to me is a way of seeing life in a harmonious and beautiful way. I try to inspire myself with simple things, such as nature or the sky, and also in people with feelings and emotions difficult to understand".



CEDET at Schools

Every week our facilitators visit their schools in order to supervise and give guidance to CEDET's enrolled students. Among these schools there is "Paulo Menicucci Municipal School", working with CEDET since 1993. Currently there are 20 students enrolled at CEDET and 12 others undergoing assisted observation.

The school Principal Mrs. Meire Aparecida Salustiano is intensively involved with all phases of our work in that school. We also have there a good support from the school's two designated intern assistants who promptly help with our needs in attending their students.

Here is what CEDET's students at Paulo Menicucci School say:

"Even before coming to study at Paulo Menicucci School I already knew about this partnership between schools and CEDET. I think that this is essential, since everything is based on friendship, affection and caring. Thus, I feel very happy with the friendship that all other schools have established with CEDET. I'd like to wish CEDET a happy anniversary and that we may have many happy years to share!"

Andréa Maria P. Ramos,
Age 12

"Each day that I attend CEDET's activities I learn new things, get a lot of caring and attention and leave the place happier day by day! I'm thankful to my facilitator who is always present at our school asking about our lives, discussing important matters, thus being a real mother for a few minutes".

Ingrid Cristine de Oliveira,
Age 12



The Municipality of Lavras



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CEDET/Lavras Team

Technical Director: Dr. Zenita Guenther. **Coordination:** Giovanna Carla Cândida. **Facilitators:** Alcione Lopes, Dirlene Botelho Carvalho, Geovani Németh-Torres, Josiane Patrícia Aguiar de Carvalho, Lucilene Aparecida Ferreira, Maria Celeste de Almeida, Renata da Silva Chula, Rejane Aparecida Simplicio, Staël Maria Patto Dessimoni Pinto, Tatiana Rezende e Valéria Aparecida de Resende. **Staff:** Vinícius Braz de Souza (Secretary), Maria Aparecida de Carvalho Azevedo, Rosa Maria Afonso de Souza (General Services) e Edson Ribeiro (Driver).

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Other CEDETs

CEDET/São José do Rio Preto (SP)

CEDET/Rio Preto students have participated and were awarded a prize at the II Science Fair organized by the Science and Culture Integrated Center (**Centro Integrado de Ciência e Cultura – CICC**) in partnership with **Universidade Estadual Paulista Julio de Mesquita Filho – UNESP**. The Science Fair aims to enhance and encourage creativity and technical-scientific knowledge in the city of São José do Rio Preto, by installing and implementing an experimental practice in the areas of Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Astronomy, applied Mathematics and related fields. In this regard, we encourage and support our students to participate in the event: the student Márcio Larsen Jr., with guidance from the volunteer Arnaldo Macari (Robotics area), developed a sonar cane for the visually impaired – which they named *Vision Friend* – that perceives obstacles through sound and vibration; another student Thamyres Sayuri presented a Physics project named "Where there is sun, that's where I go" that encourages saving electricity.

Congratulations CEDET Rio Preto!!!



CEDET/Assis (SP)

The First CEDET/Assis Philosophic Cafe

Was conducted on March 13th, 2015, on the new CEDET/Assis home. CEDET Assis works to ensure opportunities to the gifted students to develop their potential. The event was attended by parents and students at the center and also received Amélia de Jesus Rocha, postdoctoral researcher on Philosophy at IFCH-Unicamp, professor of Philosophy at the College John Paul II, and editor of the Journal *Contemplanção* (2010-2014). At the event, Amélia described her life story, from a public school student to a Postdoctoral degree at UNICAMP, winning over myths and asserting that with commitment, dedication and good guidance, we are able to achieve our goals.

The First Intercultural Encounter of CEDET/Assis –

On May 31st, 2014, our First Intercultural Encounter - "Approaching Nations" was held in the Hall of Acts of UNESP, Assis campus. The event had as a main goal to integrate educational practices in foreign languages as a process of interaction to improve the language skills of our students. They were able to interact with some exchange students at Assis Rotary Clubs: Anna Wren (Canada), Jin Hee Lee (South Korea), Ana Carolina Yepis (Mexico), Birgit Atzinger (Austria) and Fábio Miguel Vargas (Portugal).



CEDET's Pedagogical areas

CEDET's methodology organizes its educational program in three stimulation areas. In 2014 the areas carried on 103 group and 113 individual activities with the students. At that year we had 75 volunteers in the first semester and 80 in the second helping students at CEDET and ASPAT.



CRHEX

The area for Creativity, Skills and Self-Expression focus on the personal sphere of the students, observing how the child is expressing herself, the exploring of their own feelings, appreciation of beauty, cultivating the arts, understanding expressing their own body reactions and feelings, improving personal skills, self-control and self-regulation. The area attended diversified interests with activities like drawing, swimming, singing, theater, playing guitar, facial makeup, photography, visual arts, dance, sewing, crafts, painting on canvas and fabric and some martial arts.

Communication, Organization and Humanities



Students interested on the Minas Gerais State's past history planned a cultural project called "Paths of Minas", now in 2015. For this activity, there was lots of research followed by two field trips to the historic cities of São João del-Rei and Tiradentes (in April) and Ouro Preto (in June). Thirteen students from ten different schools participated in this project, a unique and new event for all of them. At its completion, we published a magazine with the material produced, as well as reports and useful information on the subject for other travelers. We believe that this initiative has achieved one of our main objectives: to provide new experiences that broaden the worldview of our students in order to stimulate the development of their abilities.

Science, Research and Technology



"I was very happy to have had the opportunity to be a volunteer in computer programming with CEDET students. Early in the activities, a lot of things surprised me, as the great facility and speed which the students absorbed what was presented. None of them had earlier contact with the program and they were just kids, so it impressed me even more. Many of the issues and tasks that I brought for them to work on were subjects that I studied at the university level.

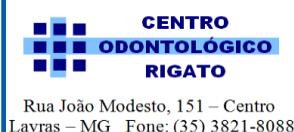
I actually verified that they have a high level of abstraction, higher than many college students. I have been teaching programming languages and algorithms for a long time and the question plus easy in learning of CEDET kids were beyond most students who were monitoring at the college level. I am very grateful to CEDET, to the teacher Rejane and Professor Joaquim Quinteiro Uchôa at UFLA for having referring me for this activity".

Antônio Ferreira dos Santos, Information System student at UFLA.



To know more about our work and the latest news, please visit:

- ASPAT/Lavras Website..... www.aspatlavras.com.br
- X International Encounter CEDET-ASPAT..... <http://encontrointernacionalcedet.blogspot.com>
- CEDET page on Wikipedia..... <http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedet>
- CEDET page on Facebook..... www.facebook.com/cedet.lavras



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